



# ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Jordan Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

August 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

16 Sep

2.

3.

C/E&amp;PS

9/19

4.

DD/FBIS

5.

D/FBIS

6.

7.

PO/RA

9/19

8.

SA/CD

9/20

9.

10.

C/AS

11.

C/B&amp;F/AS

12.

13.

14.

C/AG

26/9

15.

Exec. Reg.

FORM 1-79

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

FBIS-4013-88  
6 September 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--August 1988

## I. GENERAL

A. During the month Jordan's government continued to spell out the practical consequences of King Husayn's West Bank initiative. Amman television dropped the weekly program "With Our People in the Occupied Territory," the radio stopped broadcasting the weekly half-hour program "Occupied Land: News and Views," and both stopped specifically mentioning West Bank cities and areas in their regular weather reports.

Palestinians living and working in the East Bank flooded government offices attempting to bring official paper work up to date with various ministries and to regularize their status here. The Jordanian dinar dropped sharply in value in the West Bank, and then later in the East; the government cracked down on money changers, especially those with accounts in foreign banks; reports circulated that Palestinians were selling property in Jordan while land prices were falling; and the beginnings of a black market in local currency were observed. Some embassy employees are now getting markedly better dinar rates for dollars at the money changers than we can obtain at our official cashier, who uses the rate established by the Central Bank.

Not  
FBI's  
of  
course

B. The government also reorganized the boards of the Arabic newspapers, replacing the original bodies with government appointees in temporary administrative committees, and thus putting the stamp of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rif'ai on the local journalistic establishment. The move was not popular but would appear to be in line with other government attempts to curtail more sharply Jordanian press freedoms.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The bureau remained open well past normal COB on 8 August to monitor Iraqi coverage of the announcement of the UN Security Council cease-fire decision on the Gulf war. This included the broadcasting of the Armed Forces General Command "communique of all communiques," which is the last communique on the war monitored by the bureau and which would have been No. 3,289 had it been numbered.

FBIS-4013-88  
6 September 1988  
Page Two

2. Heavy rains and flooding interrupted the bureau's coverage of Khartoum SUNA, which LD/EAU graciously offered to cover until reception improved here. SUNA returned on 10 August with an apology to its subscribers, but reception through the end of the month remained generally unmonitorable.

B. Communications

An unexpected and happy byproduct of the bureau's transition to disseminating material via the Transmit workstation: On 4 August the bureau was forced by the introduction of new software to discontinue sending traffic for the embassy HAWK unit, a service we had provided for untold years without compensation and little thanks. As it turned out, HAWK took the news in stride, finding an alternative means of sending traffic.

C. Lateral Services

Editor [ ] called Ambassador Suddarth to break the news of the air accident that killed Pakistani President Zia al-Haq and Ambassador Raphel, a personal friend of a number of Amman Embassy officers.

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D. Technical

1. The bureau procured and installed three new PC/XT's in the monitorial area, where they were received with great joy. The bureau engineer also gleefully installed a PC/AT for engineering purposes.

2. LEC contractors installed and tested the new Transmit workstation in Communications, to the satisfaction of all.

3. [ ]/LEC performed a site survey for the LAN which is said to be forthcoming.

STAT

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Congratulations went out to bureau monitor [ ] on the birth of his second child, a son.

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2. On 9 August in celebration of promotions to FBN-10 for [ ] the two senior monitors treated the bureau to a mansaf, the traditional Jordanian national dish of heaped rice and lamb with a rich yogurt sauce which is supposed to be eaten with the hands. Some

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FBIS-4013-88  
6 September 1988  
Page Three

maintained traditional style and some of the rest of us used plates and forks.

#### IV. VISITS

To the Bureau: Headquarters DR Editor [ ] while on a personal visit to Jordan.

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[ ] LEC contractors, departed 8 August.

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[ ] FBIS Security Officer, 28-31 August. Senior Editor [ ] returned from R&R to CONUS 20 August.

STAT

STAT

Administrative Assistant [ ] returned to the bureau from Home Leave with her husband 28 August

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#### V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

[ ] organized an FBIS pool party at the American Club on 27 August. [ ] as "Momma Witch" charmed a large group of children, not to mention the ambassador and the DCM along with their wives, with a magic show.

STAT

STAT

Bureau Chief [ ] accompanied Ambassador Suddarth and a number of Royal Jordanian Airlines executives on 1 August to a mansaf hosted by Tawfiz Abu Khajilah, the honorary consul of Sri Lanka and the owner of a major firm in Jordan.

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[ ]

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Chief, Amman Bureau